

November 7, 2006



FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

2006 NOV 24 A 9:13

Mr. Jeff Jordan
Supervisory Attorney
Complaints Examination & Legal Administration
Federal Elections Commission
Washington, D.C 20463

Dear Mr. Jordan:

Re: MUR 5847

The City Club is a membership organization which frequently schedules debates between the candidates for elective office.

Our interest is in having the candidates who appear, as best we can determine, to have a serious interest in seeking public office and, from what we can ascertain, some possibility of being elected to that office, influencing the election or contributing to the public dialogue in a meaningful way.

When Mr. Lange contacted me in early October, he demanded to be part of a debate scheduled for November 2 and said otherwise he would take legal action against us. He never mentioned a campaign platform; that he had important ideas to discuss, policy positions or anything in even the slightest way regarding his qualifications. He merely demanded to appear. I informed him by letter that although I had been unaware of his candidacy, we would be pleased to make arrangements to provide an opportunity for him to speak at The City Club. He subsequently called again and was again antagonistic and threatening, stating again if he was not granted the right to appear on November 2, he would file a complaint. I again said I was had been unfamiliar with his candidacy, that we frequently had people seeking office appear by themselves at The City Club - and once again extended that invitation to him.

A best we were able to determine, Mr. Lange was not registering in any pre-election polling for the office he sought. I saw no public visibility for his campaign, no literature, or no indication that he was making any effort to attract votes, nor did he ever offer to provide us with any such tangible indications that would help to establish the seriousness of his candidacy. Moreover, he was not invited to participate in a Plain Dealer Editorial Board interview, which we view as an important determinant of election viability. He made no complaint about that, either to The Plain Dealer or, as far as we know, to the FEC. Apparently not being invited to a newspaper interview with the largest newspaper in Ohio was not an issue for him. He was invited to the Sun Newspapers Editorial Board endorsement interview, a more local weekly newspaper that directly covers the district, but his response to that invitation was that he simply did not show up. (A copy of the Sun Newspaper editorial is enclosed.)

a c i t a d e l o f f r e e s p e e c h

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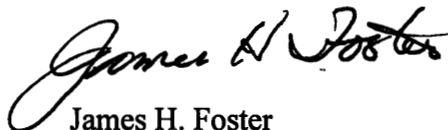
In assessing these very significant factors, it appears to me that Mr. Lange was attempting to make The City Club an issue, rather than his qualifications for the office or his positions on policy matters. None the less, our offer to provide him an opportunity to speak to our group still stood, which he declined.

He did appear in front of the building housing The City Club on November 2, in costume. I assume this was to garner publicity and it did result in a photograph in The Plain Dealer, which is also enclosed. Even on that day, however, his issue was once again not related to the public policy matters of the campaign, such as ending the war or lowering taxes, it was to make The City Club the issue.

I do not believe our organization has an obligation to provide everyone running for office an opportunity to appear at The City Club and, indeed, that would be impossible. We do attempt to make an assessment if the candidate is a serious candidate and has some potential of impacting the election or even furthering the public dialogue about important public policy issues. Mr. Lange fell well short in both assessments. None the less, he was offered an opportunity to speak here, which he declined.

For these reasons we respectfully ask that no action be taken against The City Club or me by the Federal Elections Commission on the matter of the complaint filed by Mr. Werner Lange, (MUR 5847).

Sincerely,



James H. Foster
Executive Director

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ORDINANCE: NO TAGS - YOU'RE IT! MAYBE

not partisan open to a

'Tis the political season while you can.

Patriots For Change co-man Beely Thomas said that the organization is its oriented and welcomes L Republicans and indep

Thomas was concern

column on Oct. 12 descri publicans in the Patriots ; Republicans, which they Thomas said.

Patriots co-chairwo

Kramer said she is a Re and that even the group' ments are 'issue-oriente affiliated."

In the 12 races the Pat endorsements, 10 of the ments went solely to De three races; the Patriots Democrats and Republic

In separate Cuyahoga Common Pleas Court ra dored a Republican, Jo berg, and a Democrat, S Bretz Blum.

In the 17th House Di: representative race, they can candidates— Repu Mandel and Demos Goidy.

Thomas also said that Valley Democratic Clut: Oct. 10 at the Patriots' l on Bell Street in Chagri not be meeting there ag

Thomas said most of

didn't learn that the CV there until Oct. 11 and then decided not to alle cally partisan group to r again,

The CVDC became l Oct. 9 when CVDC Pre Kraemer and Morclant

LaTourette in the 14th

especially where Iraq is concerned, but he also makes no apologies for being part of the GOP.

He successfully fought to keep 1,000 defense jobs in Cleveland; thanks to his efforts, 500 new jobs are being created there. He has brought in millions of dollars for road, water and sewer projects. If re-elected, he wants to stem illegal immigration, stimulate the economy and secure America's borders from terrorism.

LaTourette faces real opposition from by one of the best qualified, most articulate, knowledgeable newcomers we have seen this fall, Democrat Lew Katz, 67. The Pepper Pike resident is a nationally respected law professor at Case Western Reserve University. That being said, LaTourette is the better choice due to his experience, proven abilities and seniority.

A third candidate in this race is the Rev. Werner Lange of Newton Falls, an independent. A political liberal, he did not appear at our endorsement interview

The 14th District covers Ashtrabula, Geauga and Lake countries, plus part of Cuyahoga, Portage, Summit and Trumbull counties.



In his 12 years in Congress, U.S. Rep. Steven LaTourette has established himself as a non-nonsense, hard-working, steady representative. You don't see him working the press when grocery stores are sold or steel mills shut down. You do see him working behind the scenes to bring federal funds to northeast Ohio, especially infrastructure funds — which should be more plentiful if he's re-elected, due to the seniority system. Voters should give him the nod Nov. 7.

LaTourette, 52, is what many believe a representative should be — a person who can work with both parties and is not afraid of bipartisan partnerships. People say they want such legislators, but then vote for the extremes. On Nov. 7, they should reward a man who does what they supposedly desire.

LaTourette is a middle-of-the road Republican who looks at issues, not party labels. He's not above criticizing his fellow Republicans for not holding President Bush's feet to the fire more often in the last two years,

s running unopposed

U.S. Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones can't shop at Wal-Mart. Neither can state Rep. Kenny Yuko, D.7, or Lew Katz, the Democrat who's challenging U.S. Rep. Steven LaTourette in District 14.

"Why not?" I asked each in endorsement interviews this fall.

"Wal-Mart offers mostly minimum-wage jobs without health insurance," Tubbs Jones said.

"Their goods are manufactured at Third World sweatshops," Katz said.

"If Wal-Mart employees get sick, the state pays because they don't have health insurance," Yuko said.

Our editorial board caught the irony.

"Don't your constituents shop and work at Wal-Mart?" a board member asked.

"Don't cities in your district depend on Wal-Mart tax dollars?" another asked.

The trio said yes to both questions, but they stand firm. They will not patronize Wal-Mart.

I sniff a contradiction. Blindfolded politicians are whacking at Wal-Mart this fall as if it's a pinata. If the Wal-Marts of America closed down, we'd all live happily ever after, they claim. But would we?

First, Wal-Mart provides 1.3 million jobs and earned \$11 billion in profits last year. Cleveland Heights' Wal-Mart is a boon for Severance Towne Center. Bedford officials practically danced down Northfield road when Wal-Mart said it will open a Super Wal-Mart there. Euclid City Council President Ed Gudenas earned to bring in Wal-Mart when he ran for mayor in 2003.

Second, people flock to Wal-Mart because it's cheap. "Fixing" it with higher wages, health benefits and American-made goods would rocket

Issue 16 will help keep schools in top place



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health problems, including nose
and throat irritation, coughing,
wheezing and lower respiratory
tract infections.

Pielech said he's not aware
that any of the elementary
school's students or staff mem-
bers have become ill from the
mold and said the children are
not in any danger.

Smithfield is about 120 miles
east of Columbus, near the West
Virginia state line.

an manic depression, depression and other dis-



DAVID I ANDERSEN | THE PLAIN DEALER

The Rev. Werner Lange, an independent candidate in the 14th Congressional District race, protests Thursday outside the City Club of Cleveland because he said he was not invited to a political debate at the club between Republican incumbent U.S. Rep. Steven LaTourette and Democrat Lewis Katz.